

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine, comprising:
 - a CO oxidation catalyst; and
 - a H₂O trap disposed upstream of and close to the CO oxidation catalyst so dimensioned that adsorption heat and condensation heat of H₂O contribute to a rise in temperature of the CO oxidation catalyst, the H₂O trap being supported separately from the CO oxidation catalyst.
- 2-6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein the CO oxidation catalyst has low temperature light-off characteristics.
8. (Original) An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, further comprising a secondary air supply unit disposed upstream of the H₂O trap.
9. (Original) An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, further comprising a HC trap disposed upstream of the H₂O trap.
10. (Original) An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a secondary air supply unit disposed upstream of the H₂O trap; and
 - a HC trap disposed upstream of the secondary air supply unit.
11. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

a low temperature light-off CO oxidation catalyst;

a H₂O trap disposed upstream of and close to the CO oxidation catalyst so dimensioned that adsorption heat and condensation heat of H₂O contribute to a rise in temperature of the CO oxidation catalyst, the H₂O trap being supported separately from the CO oxidation catalyst;

a secondary air supply unit disposed upstream of the H₂O trap; and

a HC trap disposed upstream of the secondary air supply.

12. (Cancelled)